

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Agency consists of 27 departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies responsible for administering programs to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance the natural, historical, and cultural resources of California.

The May Revision includes total funding of \$7.9 billion (\$2.1 billion General Fund and \$5.8 billion other funds) for all programs included in the Agency.

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### EMERGENCY FUND

The May Revision proposes an increase of \$51 million General Fund to reflect historical expenditures for emergency wildfire suppression costs. The Emergency Fund (E Fund) provides necessary resources to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's emergency fire suppression efforts. Over the last five years, average emergency firefighting costs have been higher than the E Fund budgeted amount. This proposal increases the E Fund to \$172 million based on a five-year average of costs.

By using historical expenditures to estimate E Fund costs, the May Revision reflects a more realistic estimate. The Department will continue to receive the financial resources necessary to protect the public from catastrophic wildfires. The number and severity of fires caused by extremely dry winter and spring conditions in the state this year demonstrate the unpredictability of fire suppression costs. Maintaining a prudent General Fund reserve is necessary to ensure financial resources are available for emergency response capabilities.

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